

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
 - a physical communication component; and
 - a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor is adapted to
 - receive contending requests for respective non-contending wireless data transmissions through a medium;
 - schedule an ending time of a time window for the non-contending wireless data transmissions during which subsequent contending requests are impermissible;
 - communicate the scheduled ending time;
 - monitor the medium;
 - determine that one of the wireless non-contending wireless data transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and
 - communicate that subsequent transmitting of contending requests for subsequent non-contending wireless data transmissions are permissible even if made before the scheduled ending time; and
 - receiving transmitted contending requests for requesting reservation of subsequent non-contending wireless data transmissions before the current scheduled non-contending ending time.
2. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:
 - detect an idle time in the medium; and
 - compare the idle time to a preset minimum time;
 - and in which the non-contending wireless data transmission is determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, in which the processor is further adapted to:
 - start an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

4. (Previously presented) The device of claim 2, in which
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS (distributed coordination function inter-frame space).
5. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
a physical communication component; and
a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor is adapted to
receive data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;
decode from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
then receive notification that contention will be permitted before the scheduled ending time; and
transmit requests to contend for the medium for reserving a next contention-free time window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.
6. (Original) The device of claim 5, in which
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.
7. (Currently amended) The device of claim 5, in which the processor is further adapted to:
adjust a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjust the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the requests for contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time.
8. (Original) The device of claim 7, in which
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.
9. (Original) The device of claim 8, in which
the smaller value is zero.

10. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
- means for receiving contending requests for reserving respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;
 - means for scheduling an ending time of a time window during which subsequent contending requests are impermissible;
 - means for communicating the scheduled ending time;
 - means for monitoring the medium during the non-contending wireless transmissions;
 - means for determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and
 - means for communicating that transmitting additional subsequent contending requests for reserving other non-contending wireless transmissions are permissible even if made before the scheduled ending time.
11. (Currently amended) The device of claim 10, further comprising:
- means for detecting an idle time in the medium; and
 - means for comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;
 - and in which the wireless ~~transmission is~~ transmissions are determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.
12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:
- means for starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.
13. (Original) The device of claim 11, in which
- the preset minimum time equals a DIFS.
14. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
- means for receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;
 - means for decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
 - means for then receiving notification that contention will be permitted before the scheduled ending time for the contention-free window; and
 - means for transmitting contending requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time for reserving another contention-free window for sending data pursuant to the notification.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, in which
the means for receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.
16. (Original) The device of claim 14, further comprising:
means for adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
means for readjusting the contention mechanism to enable contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.
17. (Original) The device of claim 16, in which
the means for adjusting the contention mechanism includes means for setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and
the means for readjusting the contention mechanism includes means for advancing the counter to a smaller value.
18. (Original) The device of claim 17, in which
the smaller value is zero.
19. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in:
receiving contending requests for respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;
scheduling an ending time of a non-contending time window during which subsequent contending requests are impermissible;
communicating the scheduled ending time;
monitoring the medium;
determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and
communicating that subsequent contending requests can be transmitted for reserving subsequent non-contending wireless transmissions ~~are permissible~~ even if made before the scheduled ending time.

20. (Currently amended) The article of claim 19, in which the instructions further result in:
detecting an idle time in the medium; and
comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;
and in which the ~~non-contending wireless transmission is~~ transmissions are
determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.
21. (Original) The article of claim 20, in which the instructions further result in:
starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.
22. (Original) The article of claim 20, in which
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS.
23. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium
having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least
one device, they result in:
receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;
decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
~~then~~ receiving notification that transmitting contention requests for reserving a next
contention-free window will be permitted before the scheduled ending time; and
transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium for transmitting data in the
next contention-free window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.
24. (Original) The article of claim 23, in which
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.
25. (Currently amended) The article of claim 23, in which the instructions further result in:
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the
scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable
transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium before the scheduled ending time.

26. (Original) The article of claim 25, in which
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down
commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller
value.
27. (Original) The article of claim 26, in which
the smaller value is zero.
28. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving transmitted contending requests for respective non-contending wireless
transmissions through a medium;
scheduling an ending time of a time window during which transmitting subsequent
contending requests are impermissible;
communicating the scheduled ending time;
monitoring the medium;
determining that one of the wireless transmissions through the monitored medium
ended before the scheduled ending time; and
communicating a terminating frame that indicates transmitting subsequent contending
requests are permissible for reserving a next non-contending wireless transmission even if
made before the scheduled ending time; and
receiving transmitted contending requests before the scheduled ending time for
requesting reservation of the next non-contending wireless transmission in response to
communicating the terminating frame.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
detecting an idle time in the medium; and
comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;
and in which the wireless transmission is determined to have ended if the idle time is
longer than the preset minimum time.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, in which
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS.
32. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving data about a contention-free time window ~~regarding~~ for transporting
information over a medium;
decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;
~~then~~ receiving notification that transmitting a contention request will be permitted
before the scheduled ending time of the contention-free window; and
~~contending~~ transmitting the contention request for requesting transporting information
contention-free over the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the
notification.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, in which
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.
34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent ~~contending~~ transmitting the contention
requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and
pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable
~~contending~~ transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending
time.
35. (Original) The method of claim 34, in which
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down
commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller
value.
36. (Original) The method of claim 35, in which
the smaller value is zero.